



Subject Guides

Advanced Level courses available at

Mossbourne Sixth Form

2020-2022

Mossbourne Sixth Form Study Programme: Subject List

Most student at Mossbourne will choose **three** A level subject from those listed below. A fourth subject could be considered at the discretion of the Head of Sixth Form. The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) will continue to be offered as an additional qualification for pupils (pupils apply for this once they have enrolled in Year 12). Applicants will have gained a **minimum of seven grades 9-4** including English and Maths, however, **individual subjects in this guide have specific minimum entry criteria**. Please see the website for full enrolment details.

A Level Subject
Art and Design
Biology
Chemistry
Classical Civilisations
Drama and Theatre Studies
Economics
English Literature
Further Mathematics
Geography

A Level Subject
History
Latin
Mathematics
Music
Philosophy & Ethics
Physics
Product Design
Psychology
Sociology
Spanish

Art and Design: Fine Art



Introduction

This exciting and creative two-year course will introduce and extend pupils' technical skills while encouraging individuality and self-expression. It offers a stimulating course of study both for pupils wishing to continue with Art as a career and those who understand the importance of developing their creative, problem solving and observational skills, as well as gaining confidence and experience in investigative and analytical thinking. The course will include instruction in the use of a wide range of media including;

- Painting in watercolour, gouache, oil and acrylic
- Drawing and recording for different purposes
- Printmaking – including Dry point etching, lino and screen printing
- New Media – including Photography, video and Photoshop
- 3 Dimensional media and sculpture – including ceramics and casting techniques

Observational drawing is central to this course and supported by regular compulsory extra-curricular Life Drawing classes with experienced, professional models.

Throughout this journey, pupils are guided in developing individual styles and approaches by working from titles they have chosen to create a truly personal body of work. Workshops, talks and masterclasses are integral to the course as well as trips to galleries and museums. Pupils are expected to undertake their own independent research visits to enhance the quality of their work and establish the context and content of their ideas.

A Level Course outline

This award is a two-year A Level qualification

COMPONENT 1. Personal Investigation:

Practical work developed from pupils' chosen starting points:

Assessment: Personal Study, 72 marks

Extended Essay, (3000 words), 18 marks

90 marks: 60% of total A Level grade

COMPONENT 2. Externally Set Assignment:

Practical work developed from an externally set theme.

Assessment: Final piece produced in 15 hours sustained focus period of controlled assessment

72 marks; 40% of total A Level grade

Both components are internally marked and externally moderated.

Career Progression

Universities and employers recognise A Level Art and Design as a rigorous course that fosters independent thinking, develops decision making and analytical thinking skills and enhances visual literacy; all key attributes for success in Further Education. A Level Art and Design enables you progress to an Art Foundation Course or a practical apprenticeship, as well as directly onto a BA Art or Art History course. This will lead to a broad range of exciting and creative specialisms such as architecture, animation, graphic design, printmaking, sculpture, product design, engineering design, interior design, textiles, fashion, theatre design, transport, graphic, product and environmental design, photography, typography, computer graphics, illustration or art gallery-related work, such as curating, conservation or teaching.

Complementary Subjects

Art is a versatile subject and complements many other subjects ranging from the Arts, Languages, Maths and Sciences or Humanities.

Minimum Entry Requirements

Grade 6 or above at GCSE in Art and Design **and** a relevant portfolio of work.

Biology



Introduction

This course builds on the knowledge and understanding of GCSE Biology. During the course you will need to demonstrate good communication, research and data handling skills and knowledge. The A Level Biology course covers aspects of human biology, environmental science, botany and molecular biology.

This course will appeal to pupils who:

- Have an interest in the study of living organisms
- Enjoy carrying out investigations in the laboratory or as fieldwork
- Are interested in the developments of 'new' biology topics, such as genetic engineering and their impact on society

A Level Course Outline

Year 1

1. Biological molecules
2. Cells
3. Organisms exchange substances with their environment
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

Year 2

5. Energy transfers in and between organisms
6. Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environment
7. Genetics, populations, evolution, and ecosystems
8. The control of gene expression

Assessment (AQA)

Paper 1: Written exam, 2 hours. Assesses any content from topics 1 – 4, including relevant practical skills.

Paper 2: Written exam, 2 hours. Assesses any content from topics 5 – 8, including relevant practical skills.

Paper 3: Written exam, 2 hours. Assesses any content from topics 1 – 8. This paper includes 15 marks that require critical analysis of data and one 25 mark essay question from a choice of two titles.

A Level exams will cover content from Year 1 and Year 2. You will also carry out practical activities throughout your course. There are twelve required practicals: six in Year 1 and six in Year 2.

Career Progression

Biology leads on to a wide range of courses and careers. You could go on to use Biology to support other qualifications or progress onto further studies or employment. These could be:

- A degree course in, for example, Biology, Environmental Science, Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry, Psychology and Pharmacy.
- A national accreditation in Biological Science, or a related programme.
- Employment in one of many related areas, such as Pharmacy, Biotechnology, Catering or Land Management.

Complementary Subjects

Chemistry, Physics, Psychology and Maths

Minimum Entry Requirements

- Grade 7 in GCSE Biology, Grade 7 in GCSE Chemistry **or**
- Grade 7 in GCSE Combined Science **and**
- Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics **and**
- Grade 6 in English Language

Chemistry



Introduction

Everything you see, smell, taste and touch involves chemistry and chemicals. To understand life, and the physical world around us, we need to understand why and how chemical reactions take place.

Throughout this course you will study many different aspects of chemistry, from climate change and pharmaceuticals, to entropy and atomic structure.

This course will appeal to pupils who:

- Have an interest in, and enjoyment of, chemistry
- Enjoy carrying out practical investigations involving imaginative, logical and critical thinking skills
- Wish to study medical or veterinary degrees
- Want to use chemistry to support other qualifications or progress to further studies requiring an understanding of chemistry

A Level Course Outline (Edexcel)

Year 1: In the first year, pupils have the opportunity to study atomic structure and calculate chemical quantities and enthalpy changes. Organic chemistry is introduced with pupils studying alkanes and alkenes and analytical techniques.

Year 2: In the second year, pupils will cover advanced topics in chemical kinetics, energetics and organic chemistry focusing on arenes and organic nitrogen compounds. Year 13 pupils will also study of electrode potentials, transition metal chemistry, oxidation states and the use of redox half equations.

Assessment

Paper 1: Advanced Inorganic and Physical Chemistry – 1hr 45mins, 90 marks

Paper 2: Advanced Organic and Physical Chemistry – 1hr 45mins, 90 marks

Paper 3: General and Practical Principles in Chemistry – 2hrs 30mins, 120 marks

Career Progression

At the end of the course, pupils can:

- Follow a degree course in Chemistry, Environmental Science, Medicine, Pharmacy or Biochemistry. These are only a small selection of courses with direct links; the UCAS handbooks will give you further guidance.
- Follow a Higher National qualification in Applied Chemistry and related programmes, such as Sport Studies, Beauty Therapy, Applied Biology, Engineering, Agriculture, Animal Management, Countryside Management, Environmental Science, Equine Management or Horticulture
- Become employed in the area of pharmacy and biotechnology as possible examples

Complementary Subjects

Biology, Mathematics, Physics

Minimum Entry Requirements

- Grade 7 in GCSE Biology, Grade 7 in GCSE Chemistry **or**
- Grade 7 in GCSE Combined Science **and**
- Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics **and**
- Grade 6 in English Language

Classical Civilisations



Introduction

Classical Civilisation will appeal to candidates who are interested in the literature, culture, history, art, religion and mythology of the ancient Greek and Roman worlds. Pupils who wish to take up this course need not have studied any Classical subject, such as Latin, Greek, or Classical Civilisation previously, but candidates should primarily enjoy reading, and should be able to analyse texts, sources and works of art and to write extended pieces about these using primary evidence.

A Level Course Outline

Year 1:

The World of the Hero: Pupils study one of Homer's epics, either the Iliad, the infamous tale of the Trojan War, or the Odyssey, Homer's account of the Greek hero, Odysseus. From the text we learn to understand the values and beliefs as well as the cultures and traditions of the ancient Greek Society.

Greek Theatre: The drama produced in the ancient Greek theatre forms some of the most powerful literature of the ancient world, and has had a profound and wide-reaching influence on modern culture. To fully understand this cultural phenomenon, we study not only the plays but the context in which they were developed. This component involves study of the physical theatre space used by the Greeks to stage their dramas; depictions of this in the visual/material record; and an in-depth study of three plays, all of which have proven to be enduring favourites for over 2400 years.

Year 2: Builds upon and extends your knowledge of **The World of the Hero** and **Greek Theatre**, as well as introducing an additional module investigating **ancient beliefs and ideas**.

Love and Relationships: Learners recognise and relate to the passions, frustrations and delights of love in the ancient world. The ethical questions raised by these ideas continue to be wrestled over by successive generations and this unit will generate interesting and important discussions about love, desire, sex, sexuality and the institution of marriage.

Assessment

All exams feature shorter, knowledge-based questions and longer, essay questions. A Level exams will cover content from Year 1 and Year 2.

Paper 1: The World of the Hero (H408/11) 40% of assessment

Paper 2: Greek Theatre (H408/22) 30% of assessment

Paper 3: Love and Relationships (H408/32) 30% of assessment

Career Progression

Advanced Level Classical Civilisation is desirable for a degree in Classics where the candidate has little or no knowledge of Latin or Greek, and is a great asset when applying to study for degrees in Art, Architecture, Drama, English, History, Music, Philosophy, Psychology and Law. Classics graduates move on to the challenging and interesting careers in many fields, including law, MI6, archaeology, research and academia, teaching, acting and the Foreign Service.

Complementary Subjects

Classical Civilisation is an excellent subject to complement English Literature, History, Philosophy and Ethics, Psychology, Drama, Art as well as Latin. It is often enjoyed by pupils who study other humanities subjects.

Minimum Entry Requirements

- One Grade 5 and one Grade 6 across English Language and a Humanities subject

Drama and Theatre



Introduction

Is Drama for me?

Yes! If you want to enrich your Sixth Form experience with a challenging course that is both creative and highly academic

Yes! If you enjoy practical work, discussion, creating and performing

Yes! If you want to develop skills desired by employers, such as strong communication skills, creative thinking and problem solving

Yes! If you love Drama and want to deepen your knowledge of the subject

Yes! If you are self-motivated and prepared to explore the world of theatre outside the classroom as well as within

Characteristics you will need include:

- Strong practical skills – directing, performing, creating
- Good written and theoretical skills – analysing, reflecting, evaluating, essay writing and critical thinking
- Commitment, enthusiasm, creativity and a willingness to take risks

A Level Course Outline

Component 1: Devising – Pupils develop and perform their own work. Supporting written portfolio accompanies practical assessment (40%).

Component 2: Text in Performance – Group performance of an extract from a published play and a monologue/duologue from a published play (20%).

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice – Written examination focusing on the practical exploration of a play text, a director's interpretation of a second play text, and the evaluation of a live theatre performance (40%).

Assessment (Edexcel)

Component 1: Practical assessment 10% and written portfolio worth 30% (both internally assessed/externally moderated)

Component 2: Practical assessment worth 20% (externally assessed by visiting examiner)

Candidates will be required to answer compulsory short-answer and extended-answer questions.

Component 3: Written examination worth 40% (2hrs 30mins externally assessed)

Career Progression

An A Level in Drama and Theatre Studies will open many doors whether you continue on to University or the world of work. Degrees that would benefit from the subject are: Drama, Acting, English, Law, Media Studies, Film Studies, Psychology, Philosophy, History, Politics, Broadcasting, Social and Cultural Studies, Education, Journalism and others. Universities and employers will see you as a confident, creative and resourceful candidate. A Level Drama and Theatre Studies demonstrates your ability to time manage, work practically, be creative and perform under pressure.

Complementary Subjects

This course complements a wide range of other subjects such as English, Sociology, Music, History, Psychology, Art, Media or any other subject that requires you to think, write and work creatively, use analysis and work practically.

Minimum Entry Requirements

- Grade 7 in GCSE Drama
- Grade 6 in English Language and Literature

These entry requirements serve as a guide. Applications will be considered on an individual basis

Economics



Introduction

Alfred Marshall famously commented. “*Economics is the study of mankind in the ordinary business of life*”. Economics aims to explain how economies work and how economic agents interact. Studying Economics A Level allows pupils to develop a critical understanding of current economic issues and institutions that effect societies today. The study of Economics requires pupils to have a genuine interest in current affairs.

A Level Course Outline

Year 1:

Markets and Market Failure: This unit looks at basic micro-economics such as supply and demand, the operation of the price mechanism and the causes and corrections of market failure.

The National Economy: This unit introduces pupils to macro-economics including how the UK Government can tackle inflation and unemployment, taxation and spending decisions, and how Britain can become more competitive in a global economy.

Year 2:

Business Economics and the Distribution of Income: This unit builds on Unit 1 and looks at the labour market and the factors, which influence relative wage rates, poverty and the distribution and inequalities of income and wealth.

The National and International Economy: This unit builds on Unit 2 and examines how the Government manages the national and international economy. Pupils examine issues in a global context, such as the impact of China’s recent industrial development on the UK economy.

Economic principles and issues: This unit looks at the difference between short-run and long-run growth. The unit explores the concept of the economic cycle and the use of a range of economic indicators, such as real GDP, the rate of inflation, unemployment and investment, to identify the various phases of the economic cycle.

Assessment (AQA)

Paper 1: Markets and market failure (33.3% of A2) written examination, 2 hours

Paper 2: National and international economy (33.3% of A2) written examination, 2 hours

Paper 3: Economic principles and issues (33.3% of A2) written examination, 2 hours

Career Progression

A Level Economics is highly regarded by Universities and industry. There are many Business and Economics related degrees that would be a natural progression from this A Level, but it is also an asset for other degrees, such as Law, Accountancy and any of the Social Sciences.

Complementary Subjects

The diverse nature of Economics means that it complements a range of other A Level subjects. Most undergraduate Economics degree courses now require you to have Maths A Level, so there are strong links between Maths and Economics. Economics is, in actual fact, a Social Science, so subjects such as History, Psychology and Sociology are also complementary.

Minimum Entry Requirements

- Grade 7 in Economics or Business **or**
- Grade 7 in a Humanities subject **and**
- Grade 7 in Maths
- Grade 6 in English Language

English Literature



Introduction

A Level English is suitable for pupils who:

- Are passionate about reading and writing
- Want to develop their understanding of literature from all over the world
- Are interested in developing their critical, analytical faculties
- Are interested in human rights, justice and politics and how authors explore and affect our understandings of these ideas
- Possess empathy, curiosity and enthusiasm!

The qualification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills that were developed in GCSE Literature and Language.

A Level Course Outline

Year 1:

Pupils study an anthology of contemporary poetry; Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*; Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* and Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire*, as well as the historical and social contexts and influences of these texts.

Year 2:

Pupils study Shakespeare's *Othello*; the poetry of the metaphysical poets, such as Andrew Marvell and John Donne, and Walker's *The Color Purple*, writing a piece of coursework comparing Walker's text to their own choice; a fantastic opportunity to explore their own interests and authors.

Assessment

The exam board is Edexcel (9ET0) and the assessment is 80% Exam and 20% Coursework

Career Progression

Studying English Literature can lead to a wide range of courses and careers, such as:

- A higher degree in Literature or complementary subject
- Careers in teaching, journalism, academia, publishing, broadcasting, advertising or the law
- Any job that relies on communication

Complementary Subjects

History, Psychology, Sociology, Philosophy & Ethics, Classical Civilisation

Minimum Entry Requirements

- Grade 6 in English Language GCSE
and
- Grade 6 in English Literature GCSE

Further Maths



Introduction

Further Maths has become an increasingly popular subject for keen and gifted mathematicians. Pupils wishing to apply for the top universities, especially for course in Mathematics, Physics and Engineering, will have a greater chance of gaining a good offer if they have studied Further Maths. Once at university, pupils also find that they find the transition to these courses smoother having had some prior exposure to the more advanced concepts covered in Further Maths.

A Level Course Outline

The Core Pure course introduces pure maths topics beyond those covered in A-Level Mathematics. The course is the mandatory part of the Further Maths A Level. Topics covered include Complex Numbers, Matrices, Proof by Induction, Polar Coordinates and Differential Equations. The option papers chosen by the Mossbourne Sixth Form Maths team are Further Pure 1 and Further Mechanics 1. Further Pure 1 builds on concepts met in both the A Level Maths course and the mandatory Core Pure course of the Further Maths A Level. Topics covered include Conic Sections, Inequalities, Taylor Series and More Differential Equations. The Further Mechanics 1 course builds on concepts met in the Applied paper of Maths A Level. Topics include Momentum and Impulse, Elastic Springs and Elastic Collisions.

Assessment

The assessment structure consists of four examinations:

- Core Pure 1
- Core Pure 2
- Further Pure 1
- Further Mechanics 1

Each of the four exams is 90-minutes in duration and all are of equal value (25%). All exams take place at the end of Year 13.

Career Progression

A Level Further Mathematics is now a requirement for entry to the top Mathematics degrees and some universities will not consider applications from pupils without it. Applicants to Engineering and Economics/Finance degrees also gain preferential offers if they have studied Further Mathematics.

Studies have shown that graduates with higher mathematics qualifications earn considerably more than other graduates upon entering employment.

Complementary Subjects

Further Maths can only be studied by pupils who have also chosen Mathematics.

Further Maths also complements Physics, Chemistry and Computer Science, and may also be combined with Humanities or Arts subjects to demonstrate a broad range of skills.

Minimum Entry Requirements

- Grade 8 in GCSE Maths

Geography



Introduction

A Level Geography is an exciting subject, which will allow you to understand your own place on our planet. Studying geography will deepen your understanding of many contemporary challenges including climate change, food security and our energy choices. We teach a new and innovative exam specification, which asks relevant questions about what is happening in the world right now. Ever wondered:

- How people survive in the slums of the world's megacities?
- Why El Nino has caused such havoc around the world?
- If McDonald's are taking over the world?
- If the next world war will be fought over water?
- What impact decades of civil war has had on the inhabitants of Sudan?
- Why people die in famines?
- How the regeneration projects will transform East London?
- Why China are buying shares in London based utility companies?

We adopt a student-centred, enquiry based approach to learning in which teachers and pupils are partners in the learning process. You will develop analysis, evaluation and decision-making skills. You will also be given the opportunity to conduct independent research and communicate your arguments to other pupils. Fieldwork is used throughout the course.

A Level Course Outline

Dynamic Places and Human Systems will explore; globalisation, its impact around the globe and links to international development the identities associated with place and how this is impacted by regeneration; how global superpowers and geopolitics is changing the nature of global power; global human rights and the challenges linked with health and disease.

Dynamic Landscapes and Physical Systems will explore; tectonic activity around the world and how it affects vulnerable populations; the increasing levels of risk that coastal systems will be exposed to in the future and how they can be managed; how the global water and carbon cycle is being affected by human activity and how we can attempt to manage it.

Independent Investigation is your opportunity to conduct fieldwork and research into a contemporary geographical issue of your choosing. It is assessed through a written coursework style report.

Assessment

Examinations: 3 x 2 hour 15 minute exams (30% physical, 30% human and 20% synoptic)

Independent Investigation: 20%

Career Progression

Statistics show that compared to other subjects, Geography graduates are amongst the most employable. This is because of the wide range of skills pupils acquire at university. Geography A Level provides an excellent foundation for moving on to a broad range of careers including working for an aid agency, environmental work, using Geographical Information Systems or working as a civil servant.

Complementary Subjects

Geography shares common topics with Economics, Sociology, Biology and Physics but combines successfully with nearly every A Level combination.

Minimum Entry Requirements

- Grade 6 in GCSE Geography
- Grade 6 in GCSE Physics

History



Introduction

History is an extremely well respected and enjoyable subject at A Level. The study of History acts as an excellent basis for any pupils wanting to pursue careers in journalism, law, education, research, archaeology, politics, business and many more.

Pupils who wish to study History should enjoy writing essays and being up to date with current affairs.

A Level Course Outline

Two units are studied in Year 12:

- The Cold War in Europe
- England 1547 – 1603: the Later Tudors (Enquiry topic: Mid Tudor Crises 1547 – 1558)

Two units are studied in Year 13:

- Civil Rights in the USA 1865 – 1992
- Coursework

Year 1: Historians look at the Cold War in Europe for their period study. This unit takes an in-depth look into the origins and development of the Cold War in Europe, as well as the fall of the Soviet Union and end of the Cold War by the 1990s. In the Mid Tudor crisis, Historians examine primary sources to learn about how close the Tudor Monarchs came to losing their crown in rebellion, and additionally examine the reign of Elizabeth I in depth.

Year 2: Pupils focus upon the Civil Rights in the USA from 1865 to 1992. For this synoptic unit pupils need to know 'a little about a lot' rather than a 'lot about a little' for their exam and therefore need to focus on the range of changes, developments, and outcomes from the end of the Civil War, to the Rodney King incident of 1992, and everything in-between.

Additionally, pupils will focus in depth on three key events or individuals or key issues. They will learn how to evaluate historians' interpretations of these three key events or individuals or issues. The coursework unit is also completed in Year 2 and provides pupils with the opportunity and freedom to investigate a personal area of interest and to source and research it themselves.

Assessment

Cold War: 1 hour exam = 15%

Mid Tudors: 1 hour 30 minute exam = 25%

Civil Rights: 2 hour 30 minutes exam = 40%

Coursework element: 3000 – 4000 words (20%)

Career Progression

Any pupil wishing to study a History degree should have an A Level in History. Furthermore, study of History at A Level will also give pupils an excellent gateway into the study of Higher Education topics such as Philosophy, Archaeology, Politics, English, History of Ideas and Classical Civilisation.

Complementary Subjects

History at A Level would be complementary to any pupil looking at other subjects within the humanities area, such as Geography or Philosophy, but also due to demand for skills of argument, History would also complement pupils interested in studying an A Level in English.

Minimum Entry Requirements

- Grade 6 in GCSE History
- Grade 6 in GCSE English Language

Latin



Introduction

A Level Latin will appeal to candidates who have enjoyed Latin language and literature at GCSE and look forward to continuing to develop their translation skills and to reading verse and prose set texts in their originals by timeless authors such as Ovid, Cicero, Virgil and Tacitus.

Pupils who wish to study Latin should enjoy the problem-solving element of translating Latin and demonstrate a strong interest in the study and interpretation of literature.

A Level Course Outline

Year 1: Latin consists of two modules, both tested by examination:

- 01: Latin Language (Unprepared Prose Translation, with Defined Vocabulary list supplied): you will continue to increase your understanding of Latin grammar and your knowledge of Latin vocabulary by reading and translating unseen passages of Latin.
- 02: Latin Literature: through studying the prescribed passages of one prose and one verse author, you will develop your skills of literary analysis and literary criticism, as well as experience reading some of the most acclaimed authors in their original forms.

Year 2: Year 2 consists of four further modules, all tested by examination. You will study one further prose text and one further verse text. You will also continue to develop your skills in translation and your ability to analyse the Latin Language.

The A Level texts for 2020-2021 are:

Prose: Cicero, *Philippic II* and Apuleius, *Metamorphoses*

Verse: Virgil, *Aeneid XI* Horace *Odes*

Assessment

01 (33% A Level) : Unseen Translation

02 (17% A Level) : Prose Composition or Comprehension

03 (25% A Level) : Prose Literature

04 (25% A Level) : Verse Literature



Career Progression

A Level Latin is desirable for a degree in Classics and can prove a great asset when studying for degrees in History, English, Philosophy, Modern Foreign Languages and Law. Classics graduates move on to challenging and interesting careers in many fields, including teaching and the Law. Notable examples are Mark Zuckerberg, who has talked about how the study of Latin at school helped him learn to code, author JK Rowling and Margaret Mountford, Lord Sugar's famed assistant on 'The Apprentice'!

Complementary Subjects

Latin complements Classical Civilisation, Modern Foreign Languages, History, English Literature, Drama and Classical Greek and is often enjoyed by scientists, mathematicians and musicians. Latin is one of the named facilitating subject and regarded as highly desirable by universities.

Minimum Entry Requirements

- Grade 7 in GCSE Latin

If you have studied Ancient Greek to GCSE and would like to pursue this further, please do enquire as to its availability for the forthcoming academic year.



Mathematics



Introduction

Mathematics is a valuable A Level qualification that is always in demand in industry and the employment market. This course is most suitable for pupils from the highest mathematics groups as it builds on the 7, 8 and 9 grade work from GCSE. Pupils should also:

- Have an interest in Maths, Physics, Engineering or other related disciplines and enjoy problem solving
- Wish to develop their ability to understand logical arguments and think analytically
- Work methodically and be persistent when solving problems

A significant amount of independent study will also be required throughout the course.

A Level Course Outline

The Pure Maths course builds upon and extends fundamental mathematical concepts from GCSE such as Algebra and Trigonometry. New topics met include Calculus and Radian Measure.

The Applied Maths Course introduces topics from the areas of Statistics and Mechanics, and 'real world' situations are modelled mathematically. In Statistics, pupils will analyse large data sets, and in Mechanics pupils will study forces and motion.

Assessment

The assessment structure consists of three examinations:

- Pure 1
- Pure 2
- Applied

Each of the three exams is two hours in duration and all are of equal value (33.3 %). All exams are taken at the end of Year 13.

Career Progression

Degrees in areas such as Maths, Statistics, Physics, Astronomy, Engineering, Economics and Computer Science all usually require Maths at A Level. Other degrees such as Medicine, Architecture, Biology, Chemistry and Social Sciences have a certain amount of mathematical content and many of these degree courses state that pupils who have studied Maths are preferred. Maths A Level can also be useful for those who do not want to go to University, as it is highly desirable in the work force and demonstrates high-level analytical skills desirable for many apprenticeships.

Complementary Subjects

Further Maths, Physics, Economics, Chemistry and Computer Science for Science/Engineering careers. Maths also complements English and Humanities subjects to demonstrate a broad range of skills.

Minimum Entry Requirements

- Grade 7 in GCSE Maths

Music



Introduction

Music is an engaging and challenging course. It requires both creativity and discipline. It will appeal to pupils who are highly active musicians with a passion for composing and performing music and who wish to expand their theoretical musical knowledge, understanding and general musicianship.

Many pupils who complete this course go on to study music at university or conservatoire (BA, BMus and Bed degrees in Music or Performing Arts), but more generally the course will help pupils develop skills of communication, analysis, teamwork, and convergent and divergent thinking. You should have broad musical interests as you will be studying musical genres ranging from classical to pop/jazz to film.TV music. If not already fluent readers of music, pupils will need to be committed to improving their theoretical skills. Organised and independent trips to concerts and workshops will be an essential part.

A Level Course Outline

There are seven areas of study, as follows:

1. Western classical tradition 1650 – 1910 (compulsory)
2. Pop music
3. Music for media
4. Music for theatre
5. Jazz
6. Contemporary traditional music
7. Art music since 1910

Assessment

Extended Performance – 35% (External Assessment)

Composition / Technical Study – 25% (External Assessment)

Further Musical Understanding – 40% (External Examination)

Career Progression

Many pupils who complete this course go on to study music at university or conservatoire (BA, BMus and Bed degrees in Music or Performing Arts). Professional opportunities might include working as a performer, composer, arranger, conductor, song-writer, producer, studio engineer, sound technician, session musician, A&R, publishing, record label management, concert hall management, music critic/journalist, advertising, events management, music therapy, arts education, workshop facilitator, amateur, art administration, musical director. Curator, etc.

Complementary Subjects

Music is a versatile subject and combines easily with other subjects from the Arts, Languages, Sciences, Humanities and Maths. Music at A Level is an incredibly diverse subject and allows you to develop a variety of skills that will be of use in other subjects, as well as in Higher Education and eventual employment.

Minimum Entry Requirements

- Grade 7 in GCSE Music
- Grade 5 performance
- Pupils must be active musicians
- Pupils may be asked to audition for a place on the course

These entry requirements serve as a guide. Applications will be considered on an individual basis.

Philosophy and Ethics



Introduction

The course has been designed to provide a coherent and thought-provoking programme of study for pupils, whilst acting as a rigorous course of study, which prepares learners for progression to Higher Education. This qualification is designed to help pupils develop a greater understanding and appreciation of Christian beliefs and teachings, as well as the disciplines of ethics and philosophy of religion. Pupils will develop their skills of critical analysis in order to construct balanced, informed arguments and responses to religious, philosophical and ethical ideas. The A Level Religious Studies course aims to engage learners thoroughly and develop an interest in Religious Studies, which extends beyond the classroom and can be applied to the world around them.

A Level Course Outline

The study of **ethical theories** such as: Natural Law, Kantian ethics, Utilitarianism. Applied ethics in: Euthanasia, Sexual ethics and Business ethics.

The study of ancient Greek **philosophers** such as Plato and Aristotle. Study of a religion and of philosophical ideas about God found in religious scripture and arguments for and against the existence of God, the relationship between the body and the soul and life after death.

The study of **ethical theories** and ideas such as: Free Will and Determinism, Conscience and Virtue Ethics. **Applied ethics** in Business, Environment and Sexual ethics.

The study of **development of Christian thought**: Christian philosophers such as Aquinas and Christian moral actions and thought. We will then begin to look at the role of gender in society and secularisation.

Assessment

There will be 3 examinations in **Philosophy, Ethics** and **Development of Christian thought**. The exam for each component will be worth 120 marks and represents 33.3% of the total marks for A Level. These exams will take the form of externally assessed written papers lasting 2 hours each.

Career Progression

Candidates who are interested in studying English, Philosophy, History, Anthropology, Social Studies, law and, of course, Theology and Religious Studies at degree level are particularly welcomed. It is also a useful complementary subject for those hoping to study medicine. Philosophy and Ethics is considered a particularly suitable qualification for all kinds of work, especially social work, management, civil service posts, politics, teaching, nursing and other work with children.

Complementary Subjects

English, History, Psychology, Sociology and the Sciences

Minimum Entry Requirements

- Grade 7 in GCSE Religious Studies
- Grade 6 in GCSE English Language and Literature
- Grade 6 in GCSE in a Humanities subject

Physics



Introduction

A Level Physics is suitable for pupils who:

- Want to find out about how things in the physical world work
- Enjoy applying their mind to solving problems
- Enjoy carrying out investigations by the application of imaginative and logical thinking
- Want to use physics to support other qualifications or progress onto further studies or employment

The qualification builds on the knowledge, understanding and process skills that you will have developed in GCSE Science.

A Level Course Outline

Year 1: The first unit leads on from GCSE studies and covers motion, forces and moments, Newton's laws and dynamics, momentum and mechanical energy, as well as electric current and potential difference, and electrical circuits. The second unit includes fluids dynamics and solid materials science as well as waves, refraction, polarisation, diffraction and the wave/particle nature of light.

Year 2: The first unit involves the study of further mechanics and circular motion, electric and magnetic fields, and particle physics. The second unit involves the study of thermal energy, nuclear decay, oscillations, astrophysics and cosmology.

Assessment

Assessment is 100% examination.

Paper 1 and 2: Theory papers (60%)

Paper 3: Assesses all content and experiments conducted throughout the course (40%)

Career Progression

Physics leads on to a wide range of courses and careers. You could go on to use Physics to support other qualifications or progress onto further studies or employment; such as degree level courses ranging from Physics, Medicine and the Sciences to all disciplines of Engineering.

Physics is highly regarded as a facilitating entry qualification for a wide range of Higher Education courses and employment.

Complementary Subjects

Mathematics and Further Maths, as well as other Sciences, Computer Science and Product Design.

Minimum Entry Requirements

- Grade 7 in GCSE Physics and Grade 7 in GCSE Chemistry **or**
- Grade 7 in GCSE Combined Science

And

- Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics
- Grade 6 in English Language

Please note: Pupils who study A Level Physics will also be required to choose A Level mathematics

Design & Technology: Product Design



Introduction

“Growing at almost twice the rate of the wider economy, our Creative Industries are well and truly thriving. Design is the UK’s fastest-growing creative sector and is worth £3.2 billion a year to the country’s economy. The Government needs to act to secure continued growth, not least by providing a proper creative education to ensure the workforce of the future.” Creative Industries Federation chief executive John Kampfner

Thinking as a designer: You determine your own project for year 13 and work as an independent designer, developing a professional relationship with your client.

Problem Solving: A real emphasis is placed on design development through extensive modelling and new technologies to refine a design concept that meets your client specification.

Precision meets creativity: As a designer you are at the crossroads of a number of skills. We develop your creative skills in order for you to fully explore the form and function of your product. We train you to use precision engineering machinery so that you can realise your ideas in the form of a high quality fully functioning prototype.

UCAS personal statement; your choice of project could relate to your future studies in way that would make your application stand out to admission tutors.

A Level Course Outline (AQA)

Year 1

Developing knowledge and skills: You will have a series of theory lessons covering the uses of different materials and manufacturing techniques used in industry; explore the work of other designers and be introduced to how designers work alongside business in industry. Alongside the theory you will start your NEA project by identifying a client and their specific needs; unlike at GCSE the area of focus is your choice. You will then research and develop a design idea ready to make in year 13.

Year 2

You will spend the first half of the year developing and making a prototype for a product of your choice for the NEA. The remainder of the year will be covering theory and revision. In the summer, you will then sit an exam on principles of D&T.

Assessment

NEA portfolio: 50%, completed over two years

Examination: 50%, 2 hours 30 minutes

Career Progression

Product design could take you into a huge variety of exciting career paths. The Russell Group of universities have identified Design and Technology as a useful A Level for studying the following subjects at their institutions: Architecture, Mechanical Engineering, General Engineering, Aeronautical Engineering, Electrical/Electronic Engineering, Materials Science (including Biomedical Materials Science) and Set Design.

Complementary Subjects

Maths, Physics, Geography, Computing and Business Studies.

Minimum Entry Requirements

- Grade 6 in GCSE Design and Technology **or**
- Distinction in BTEC Engineering or Product Design

Psychology



Introduction

Psychology is the study of the most complex and sophisticated object in the known universe, the human brain. The subject will develop the student's understanding of themselves and those around them. It will help them to answer questions such as 'How do I learn?' 'What kind of a human would we be if we were locked away from the rest of the world for ten years?' 'Why would a bank robber not be correctly identified if they were carrying a weapon?' 'Why do we develop phobias, and how do we treat them?'

Studying psychology will help to you gain:

- Knowledge that you can apply to everyday situations for the rest of your life
- Greater understanding of why humans behave the way they do (you will not be able to read minds!)
- Analytical, evaluative and communication skills
- Independent learning skills
- The ability to understand many explanations of the same thing and come to your own conclusions
- Organisational skills and problem solving skills

A Level Course Outline (AQA)

Year 1: You will study the four topics that make up paper 1:

Social influence (understanding obedience and conformity)

Memory (how memory works and explanations of forgetting)

Attachment (the different types of relationships we form from infancy)

Psychopathology (explanations and treatments for OCD, phobias and depression)

You will also study the three topics that are covered in paper 2:

Approaches (the six different branches in psychology)

Biopsychology (the relationship between our physiology and behaviour)

Research Methods – worth 50% of this paper (investigating important elements when conducting studies)

Year 2: In the second year you will look at the four topics that make up the final paper:

Issues and Debates (the main questions raised from psychology research)

Gender development (explanations for our gender identity and atypical gender development)

Schizophrenia (explanations and treatments for the condition)

Aggression (explanations for aggression including physiological, social and media)

Assessment

Papers 1 and 3 are 2 hour written exams that feature topics 1–4 and 8–11 respectively. Each topic is worth 24 marks. Paper 2 is a 2 hour written exam that features topics 5–7. Each topic is worth 24 marks, except research methods which is 48 marks.

All exams have multiple choice, short answer and essay based questions.

Career Progression

Possession of this A Level can lead to a non-related degree or a BSc degree in Psychology, which in turn can lead to a wide variety of career choices in Psychology, such as in health, education or numerous other graduate jobs, as many skills are very transferrable.

Complementary Subjects

Sociology, Biology, Philosophy and Mathematics. The skills gained and used throughout the course will complement nearly all other courses, but are particularly relevant to other humanity subjects.

Minimum Entry Requirements

- Grade 6 in GCSE Psychology/Sociology (if previously studied) **and**
- Grade 6 in GCSE Biology/Grade 66 Science Combined Award **and**
- Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics

Sociology



Introduction

Sociology is the study of people, society and why its members behave in the way they do. Candidates will be given the opportunity to develop the essential knowledge and understanding of central aspects of sociological thought and research methods. Pupils will develop their own social awareness, and an understanding of the wider society around them. The course asks questions such as 'Why is marriage declining?' 'What is the most common family type in Britain?' 'Why do girls do better educationally than boys?' 'How and why are we influenced by the media?' 'Why do people commit crime?' and many others.

Skills you will gain:

- Knowledge you can apply to everyday situations for the rest of your life
- A greater understanding of why people behave the way they do
- Great analytical and evaluative skills
- Communication skills
- Essay writing and scientific report writing skills
- Time management
- Independent learning skills
- The ability to understand many explanations of the same thing and come to your own conclusions
- Organisational skills
- Problem solving skills

A Level Course Outline

Year 1 - three topics make up paper 1

Education: the functions of education, differential educational achievement in schools and educational social policy

Methods in context: application of research methodology to education

Theory and Methods: qualitative and quantitative research methods

One of the two topics from paper 2: **Families and Households** the functions of the family, the impact of social change on family structures and relationships and social policy.

Year 2:

The second topic from paper 2: **Beliefs in Society** the significance of religion in contemporary society

Two topics make up paper 3: **Crime and Deviance** explanations of crime and **Theory and Methods:** Year 1 theory and methods plus consensus, conflict and social action perspectives

Assessment

The subject is very discursive and essay based. As a result, it is essential that pupils who are considering taking the subject enjoy debating, as well as being adept at constructing critical and well-informed essays. An interest in research would also benefit the potential candidate.

Career Progression

Progression of an A Level in Sociology can lead to a non-related degree or a BA degree in Sociology, which in turn can lead to a wide variety of career choices in health, research, education or numerous other graduate jobs.

Complementary Subjects

Psychology, Philosophy, Mathematics, English and Geography. The skills gained and used throughout the course will combine well with nearly all other courses.

Minimum Entry Requirements

- Grade 6 in GCSE Psychology/Sociology (if previously studied) **or**
- Grade 6 in GCSE Geography/History **and**
- Grade 6 in GCSE English Language

Spanish



Introduction

Do you enjoy GCSE Spanish? Do you have a passion for languages? This course will appeal to those who are keen to develop their language skills as well as those who are interested in deepening their understanding of themes relating to the society and culture of Spanish-speaking countries.

The new AS and A Level AWA specification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. It constitutes an integrated study with a focus on language, culture and society. It fosters a range of transferable skills, including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity, which are valuable to the individual and the society. Pupils must also study one film and two literary texts from a prescribed list. The language assistant will also play an indispensable part in helping pupils improve their speaking skills for this course.

A Level Course Structure

All MFL subjects are studied as a two year linear course with exams taken at the end of Year 13.

Assessment:

Paper 1: Listening Reading and Writing: 50% of A Level

Paper 2: Writing: 20% of A Level

Paper 3: Speaking: 30% of A Level

Career Progression

A language on your CV greatly appeals to employers; it shows that you have a determination and resilience to succeed in the face of challenge. An additional language sets you apart from other candidates with the same skills set; you have the ability to communicate with others beyond the sphere of Anglophone speakers and thus will render yourself a real asset within the workforce and to the business/organisation/charity that employs you. Furthermore, an appreciation of cultural, ethnic and social diversity is paramount to succeeding in today's world and employers will actively seek graduates who have such finely tuned awareness of this diversity given their versatility. Studying a language greatly broadens your career prospects. Linguists go on to forge careers in an array of sectors; education, law, counselling, social services, customer services, multi-national organisations (sales, marketing, trade, supply-chain) translation and interpretation, politics, journalism and writing and events.

Complementary Subjects

English, French, Maths, History, Geography, Latin and Classical Civilisation

Minimum Entry Requirements

- Grade 7 at GCSE Spanish.

Pupils will also need to have strong skills in Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.